

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 have been rejected as anticipated by Kenmochi, U.S. Patent No. 6,084,190. Claims 4 and 7 have been rejected as unpatentable over Kenmochi in view of Chuang, U.S. Patent No. 6,166,662. Claim 3 has been indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Amended claim 1 recites the depressible member initially moving relative to the second membrane (Specification, page 7, lines 19-21); and the first membrane initially resisting movement of the depressible member without the second membrane resisting movement of the depressible member, and then the first membrane resisting movement of the depressible member simultaneously with the second membrane, the first and second membranes providing a tactile sensation to the operator due to a reduction in the combined return forces applied to the depressible member by the first and second membranes after the first and second membranes resist movement of the depressible member simultaneously (Specification, pages 7-8, lines 19-23 and 1-11; Figs. 1-3). Kenmochi discloses a key top (2), a skirt portion (1c) and a metal dome (12). However, Kenmochi does not disclose the key top (2) initially moving relative to the metal dome (12) or the skirt portion (1c) initially resisting movement of the key top (2) without the metal dome (12) resisting movement of the key top (2). Claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

New claim 8 recites the depressible member is spaced apart from the second membrane when the depressible member is in the unactuated condition (Fig. 1). Kenmochi only discloses the skirt portion (1c) and the metal dome (12) in contact with each other (Fig. 10). Claim 8 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 9 recites the second membrane is spaced apart from the depressible member while the first membrane is initially resisting movement of the depressible member (Figs. 1 and 2). Kenmochi only discloses the skirt portion (1c) and the metal dome (12) both resisting movement (Fig. 10). Claim 9 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 10 recites the first membrane is constructed integrally with the depressible member (Specification, page 6, lines 4-8). Kenmochi discloses the key top (2) as a separate piece (Figure 10) from the skirt portion (1). Claim 10 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 1, as well as claims 2 and 4-10 which depend from claim 1, are in condition for allowance.

Claim 3, indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been written in independent form. Claim 3 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 11 recites the first membrane being movable to a first condition wherein the first membrane resists movement of the depressible member, the second membrane not resisting movement of the depressible member when the first membrane is moved to the first condition, the first membrane being movable to a second condition wherein the first membrane resists movement of the depressible member, the second membrane

resisting movement of the depressible member when the first membrane is moved to the second condition (Specification, pages 7-8, lines 19-23 and 1-11; Figs. 1-3). As stated above, Kenmochi does not disclose the skirt portion (1c) resisting movement of the key top (2) in a first condition without the metal dome (12) resisting movement of the key top (2).

Claim 12 recites the first membrane and the second membrane are spaced apart in both the unactuated condition and the actuated condition (Figs. 1 and 3). Kenmochi and the other art of record do not disclose an apparatus with this feature and the other recited features.

Claim 11, as well as claim 12 which depends from claim 11, are in condition for allowance.

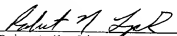
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in  
the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account

No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 and 3 have been amended, as follows:

1. (Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a depressible member having an unactuated condition,  
said depressible member being movable to and an actuated  
condition from said unactuated condition;

a first membrane connected with said depressible  
member, said first membrane resisting movement of said  
depressible member from said unactuated condition to said  
actuated condition, said first membrane further providing an  
increasing return force urging said depressible member to said  
unactuated condition as an operator moves said depressible  
member from said unactuated condition to said actuated  
condition; and

a second membrane resisting movement of said  
depressible member to said actuated condition, said second  
membrane further providing an increasing return force to said  
depressible member as the operator moves said depressible  
member to said actuated condition;

said depressible member initially moving relative to  
said second membrane,

said first membrane initially resisting movement of  
said depressible member without said second membrane resisting  
movement of said depressible member, and thereafter said first  
membrane resisting movement of said depressible member acting  
alone and then acting simultaneously with said second

membrane, said first and second membranes ~~and~~ providing a tactile sensation to the operator due to a reduction in the combined return forces applied to said depressible member by said ~~the~~ first and second membranes after said first and second membranes resist movement of said depressible member simultaneously.

3. (Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a depressible member having an unactuated condition and an actuated condition;

a first membrane connected with said depressible member, said first membrane resisting movement of said depressible member from said unactuated condition to said actuated condition, said first membrane further providing an increasing return force urging said depressible member to said unactuated condition as an operator moves said depressible member from said unactuated condition to said actuated condition; ~~and~~

a second membrane resisting movement of said depressible member to said actuated condition, said second membrane further providing an increasing return force to said depressible member as the operator moves said depressible member to said actuated condition; and ~~The apparatus as defined in claim 1 further including~~

a third membrane enclosing said first and said second membranes;

said first membrane initially acting alone and then acting simultaneously with said second membrane and providing a tactile sensation to the operator due to a reduction in the combined return forces applied to said depressible member by said first and second membranes.

Claims 8-12 have been added.